from doing that which he conceived to be his duty, even although he might be a commissioner only a month, which he should perform to the best of his ability.

The Chairman then put the original motion (an amendment of Mr. Le Breton for an open court having fallen to the ground for want of a seconder), which was carried, and the following gentlemen named as the committee:—Mr. Alderman Johnson, Mr. J. White, Messrs. H. Harrison, Le Breton, Chalmers, Hawkes, T. L. Donaldson, Moss, Wood, Crace, and Cumberlege.

The late Illegal Conduct of a Commissioner.—The next order of the day was "to consider as to certain notices issued contrary to Act of Parliament, calling upon persons in Robert's-terrace, Chelsea, to communicate with a sewer, and other matters connected therewith. The solicitor to report thereon." Mr. Farlar was summoned to attend.

The Chairman announced the receipt of a letter from Mr. Farlar, who admitted receiving the resolutions of a former court, and stated his inability to attend the court this day.

The solicitor then presented his report, which, after reciting the progress of the question, stated that there was no legal ground whatever to support the proceedings of Mr. Farlar; that it rested with the commissioners alone to require parties to make sewers and to drain into them; that the court only could make an order, decree, or settle the payment to be made; and that an opposite course had been usurped by Mr. Farlar, who had no right whatever in the sewer. That it was the duty of the court to prevent the recurrence of such conduct, and that any party assuming, without authority, the powers of the court, to coerce individuals into the payment of sums of money, might be criminally proceeded against in the Court of Queen's Bench.

Mr. Donaldson said the sewer in question was built while he had the honour of occupying the chair of that court, and he was of opinion that it was then built for the benefit of the district. Mr. Farlar was wayward of mind, but he (Mr. D.) knew nothing injurious to his moral character in this case: still there could be no doubt that in his claim to this sewer he had proceeded with great irregularity. Mr. Farlar had no interest in the line of the sewer; but he would have it done, and came to this court in a chivalrous spirit to require it to be done, and for which then it was not expected there would be any return for the money. Mr. Farlar had legally no right in the sewer, and even now it stood in Mr. Signer's name,—and had availed himself precipitately and illegally of the powers of the Act for the recovery of the money. One feature in the case, and which made a deep impression on the public, was the part taken by a Commissioner of Sewers in these proceedings, to awe parties into the payment of money. He trusted the court would take up the subject, and do justice to the parties who built the sewer.

Mr. Goderich remembered the sewer being built on the west side of Chelsea Church, and that 500*l.* was paid by this court towards the same.

Mr. Broughton said, the clear statement of their solicitor set forth, in words of strong character, that any person doing so and so is liable to such and such penalties, and called upon them to take such steps as are due to their own dignity and efficiency, to put a stop to such practices for the future. His (Mr. B.'s) opinion was, that they should take no steps till they had submitted the report of their solicitor to Mr. Farlar. It was a very grave matter for any member of this or other constituted court, to seek by means of its papers to enforce payment of sums of money, and he ought to know, however morally correct,—however strong the right,—that no individual member can use the process of a court without the sanction of the court; for let the public once know such process to be so used, and none would be respected. He concluded by moving,—"That a copy of the report drawn up and read by the solicitor, be sent to Mr. Farlar, and that he be required to send to the court any explanation of the part taken by him in connection with these proceedings:" which was carried.

Association for the Erection of Churches and Schools.—An association is now forming, we are told, for the erection of either temporary or permanent churches and schools, for such parishes or clergymen as may require them,—and to rent or lease them, as is done in the case of buildings intended for temporal purposes. The plan has been pursued (as an individual enterprize) for some time, and various churches have thus been constructed, including one for the Hague (which was commenced and finished within fourteen days). The rent has, in no case, been calculated at a higher average than at a rate of 2d. per week, or 8s. 6d. per year, each sitting.

WESTMINSTER HALL.

Sir,—Now that the great experimental exhibitions of British art are closed for ever, we naturally reflect on the various results with a mixture of regret and of pride; of regret for the sacrifices that many of the artists could but ill-afford, but of honourable exultation at the improved position of the profession generally. There is, however, one thing as yet undone by the competitors, which as gentlemen, they will consider an agreeable duty: it is also a judicious encouragement to good conduct in those who have the subordinate management of exhibitions. After the competition for the Nelson testimonial, a written acknowledgement of the civility and attention of Mr. Rainey's clerk, signed by nearly all the candidates, was presented to that gentleman with a more substantial compliment; this was done in a way that contrasted well with the neglect to which they were themselves consigned on that occasion. Every competitor at Westminster Hall will, I am sure, agree, that on no former occasion were their thanks and approbation better deserved than by Mr. Peckham during the four exhibitions at Westminster; his care, his attention, and civility, have saved us much trouble and annoyance, and converted many little inconveniences into comforts. Those who have, I fear it must be said, at every other exhibition had to lament the dirty condition of their pictures and the severe injuries done to their frames, must be both surprised and delighted to find them returned from Westminster Hall, after being seen by a million of visitors, as clean and free from dust as they went there, and without a scratch. Such an example ought not to pass unrecorded by our marked approbation:—our interest, our good sense and proper feeling require at least a written testimonial in favour of the person to whose care we are indebted for this proof of the possibility of these matters being well managed. After the heavy trials that we have passed through, a costly present cannot be expected, and to some it might be a severe tax on their exhausted means, but their signature to a written approbation would no doubt be as gratifying as gold, and to one who depends on his good name, perhaps more serviceable. However, if others think that some additional token of our generous and gentlemanly feelings is required, though one of those who have sown largely and had their prospects blighted, I shall be happy to join in any small contribution that will do honour to both parties without injury to any. If artists feel on this subject as I trust they do, a mode of carrying it out will, no doubt, be suggested by some correspondent, and be realised without delay.

None can understand the importance of a generous and proper feeling on the part of competing artists more than yourself, for none has done more to improve a system under which modest talent has often sunk and empiricism and intrigue have flourished.—I remain, Sir, your very obedient, and, as an artist, your obliged, humble servant,

Oct. 20. One of the Competitors.

Correspondence.

THE LIGHT AND HEALTH TAX.

Sir,—Whilst the inhabitants of the crowded cities still breathe the foul atmosphere, and gradually decrease the otherwise natural duration of their lives, the wise and anxious guardians of the people's happiness,—the balm of the nation's woes,—take their pleasure where the "air smells wooingly," and where they hear not the brayings of the corporation ass that (as in the old fable) frightened the (British) lion into a temporary desertion of its offspring,—the Health of Towns' Bill.

The component parts, which are necessary to render the bill of service, have not been, to my mind, sufficiently discussed. It is true, many have come forward and proved the foul state of the sewers and drains, and the unfortunate results of a neglect of them; courts and alleys where there is a total deficiency in this respect have been mentioned, and statistical accounts defy contradiction as to the loss of life which these evils occasion. But there are other reforms which the bill must include to render it effective, in which list the Window Tax stands prominent. It is unjust, for light and air are the common gifts of Heaven, and "we will nothing pay for wearing our own noses." If our rulers can prove that the pure air is not essential to the proper action of the body, and that, neglecting to provide it, does not occasion disease and death;—if they can also prove their right to that for which they exact a tax, by hiding (to use the words of the wisdom-besprinkled fool, Cloten) "the sun from us with a blanket, or by putting the moon in their pocket, then we will pay them tribute for light; else, sir, no more tribute."

It is impolitic; for, as labour produces wealth, and this tax enfeebles both mind and body, the labour of the man is lost when he is stretched upon a bed of sickness; and the additional expense it brings upon the poor-houses is greater than the sum it yields to the revenue.

That it is detrimental to health, the statistical comparison between the mortality in town and country, in agricultural and manufacturing districts, or even in the crowded and uncrowded parts of London, is undeniable evidence.

Whilst education is justly lauded as the best preventive of crime and folly, and is so generally admitted, that the fight is removed to the minor points of the bill, and the voluntary, or State principle, was made the subject of hostility by the contending parties, it seems to be forgotten that the *physical* powers must be strengthened and sustained before the *mental* faculties can be brought into action; for of what use is education, if the soil over which the seed is to be scattered is, from neglect, weak and unproductive?

The fresh air is not only needed in the streets and parks, but it is required also in the workshop (for without the latter they will have no spirit to enjoy the former).

There they have, in addition to the foul effluvia from the streets, the consequences of unventilated gas-lights; and there being often no circulation of air through the apartment, they have to rebreathe the air that has previously passed through the lungs. A proper ventilation of manufactories is most necessary. Where the Window Tax presses most grievously is where large houses, whose summits almost meet, are let to a number of the poorer classes, where the windows are blocked up to save the expense, and where every uncleanness is to be seen inside,—water being scarce, and dirt most plentiful.

Lord Morpeth will doubtless have enough to do; but, like Blue Beard's wife, unless he can remove the "damned spot," all his laborious cleansing will be of no avail;—

> "For since the more fair and chrystal is the sky,
> The uglier are the clouds that in it fly."

Should he, however, remove it, he will receive as much praise as the memory of the man who imposed it deserves execration.

I am, Sir, &c., B.

LODGING-HOUSES FOR MECHANICS.

Sir,—I beg to apologize for the liberty I have taken in addressing you, but knowing you to be a staunch advocate for the improvement of mechanics, I have ventured to send this letter, and trust you will consider it of sufficient importance for insertion in your valuable journal, and that some of your liberal readers will give it their attentive perusal, and further the suggestion. My objects are the health and domestic comforts of the respectable unmarried mechanics and clerks, who pay on an average about 5*s.* per week for a lodging, a mere sleeping room, without any other accommodation. Many there are who come to town with no relations or friends to go to, and who have no alternative but to take shelter in the poor apartments provided for them by the lodging-house keepers, and for want of comfort at their homes, are often induced to accede to the temptations of the streets or public-houses, or are led to improvident marriages, which are destructive of happiness.

I have read with much pleasure the reports of the model lodging-houses, which are being erected for the labouring classes, combining the comforts of baths, a reading-room with an appropriate library, &c., with other conveniences, at the small yet remunerative charge of 1*s.* 6*d.* or 2*s.* per week; so the thought has struck me that something of this kind might be established on rather a superior scale at

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